

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

on his behalf, with the object of preventing the Republic from joining the league that was being formed against the Holy See. There is no warrant for this in Raimondo's narrative, and it seems chronologically an anticipation of what was to take place some months later. If Catherine had any more definite mission than that of her Divine Spouse for the conversion of souls, it could only have been in connection with the proposed Crusade; she was apparently to use Pisa as a headquarters from which to stir up enthusiasm among high and low in Italy, alike by letter and by spoken word, for ^{ct} the holy passage."

The Pope was trying gradually to feel his way in this matter, which he probably had sincerely at heart. Among the numerous bulls despatched from Avignon was one addressed to the provincial of the Dominicans in Tuscany, the minister of the Friars Minor, and to Fra Raimondo, empowering them to investigate the will and disposition of the faithful, to enroll those who were ready to give their lives in the great undertaking, and to report to the Pope thereon, so that he might know upon what support he could rely from Italy when the banner of the Cross should actually be raised. There had been some immediate response from individuals, three of the Buonconti, for instance, having enrolled themselves ; but it was imperative to secure the adhesion of the heads of the maritime States of the Mediterranean : Naples, Genoa, Pisa, and Sardinia; especially as the practical intervention of Venice in the enterprise seemed doubtful, and Louis of Hungary, in spite of his alleged pledges to the contrary, showed small disposition to move his powers in defence of the threatened Greeks and their Emperor, notwithstanding an urgent brief from Gregory inciting him to act with vigour.¹ A little later, these exhortations were renewed, and a friar of great eloquence, one of the few immediate links between Petrarca's circle of correspondents and that of Catherine, Fra Bonaventura Badoara of Padua, an Augustinian hermit, was sent to inflame the

¹ Brief of January 28, 1375. Raynaldus, vii. p. 263. The Pope was flattering himself that the Greeks were prepared to submit to the Roman obedience **in** return for armed Hungarian protection.